

REMARKS

Applicants have added new claims 122 and 123, which depend from claims 61 and 70, respectively. Claims 60, 61, 63-68, 70-72, 74-79, 113, 114, 116, and 118-123 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I - claims 60, 61, 63-66, 68, 70-72, 74-77, 79, 113, 114, 116, and 118-121; and Group II - claims 67 and 78. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group 1, claims 60, 61, 63-66, 68, 70-72, 74-77, 79, 113, 114, 116, and 118-121 drawn to an access port device. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement inasmuch as claims 67 and 78 were previously examined and, thus, there would be no undue burden to examine claims 67 and 78 along with the claims of Group I. Further, these claim groups would require an overlapping search.

New claims 122 and 123 depend from claims 61 and 70, respectively, of elected Group 1. Accordingly, claims 122 and 123 should be examined along with the claims of Group 1. In addition, claims 122 and 123 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 61 and 70, respectively.

If a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (571-203-2774).

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 28, 2007

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony M. Gutowski", written over a horizontal line.

Anthony M. Gutowski
Reg. No. 38,742